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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7043
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, MZ, TZ
SUBJCT: MOZAMBIQUE SENDS TECHNICAL MISSION TO EC HEAD-
-- QUARTERS TO DISCUSS LOME CONVENTION OPERATIONS
REF: BRUSSELS 8159

1. AS DISCUSSED REFTEL, A TECHNICAL MISSION LED BY THE DIRECTOR FROM MOZAMBIQUE'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE VISITED EC AND ACP SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS, MAY 23-27. MISSION OFFICER HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF THE PROGRAM ARRANGED FOR THE THREE GOM OFFICIALS, WHICH MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE EC COMMISSION PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS IN AN EFFORT TO: (A) ACQUAINT THE VISITING OFFICIALS WITH THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE LOME CONVENTION; AND (B) PROMOTE AND FACILITATE POSSIBLE GOM PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS JULY. IN ADDITION TO WORKING SESSIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTLINING VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE CONVENTION (INCLUDING STABEX, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AID, AND INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS) A LUNCH WAS
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OFFERED TO THE VISITORS BY EC COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT CHEYSSON. COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF THE VISIT NOTE THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS STRICTLY "EXPLORATORY" IN NATURE; THEY EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT CHEYSSON AND OTHERS IN THE EC INTERPRET THE GOM'S DECISION TO SEND A MISSION TO BRUSSELS AS AN EXTREMELY HOPEFUL SIGN AS REGARDS MOZAMBIQUE'S ADHERENCE TO LOME II.

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2. OUR COMMISSION SOURCES SAY THAT THE EC SIDE IS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE SINCERE INTEREST IN THE CONVENTION EXPRESSED BY THE MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION; THEY ALSO NOTE THAT THE VISITORS HAD OBVIOUSLY DONE THEIR HOMEWORK PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN BRUSSELS. ON THE EC COMMISSION SIDE, A KEY OBJECTIVE WAS TO EXPLAIN THE SUBSTANTIVE ADVANTAGES FOR THE GOM WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH LOME. AT PRESENT, MOZAMBIQUE, AS A NON-ASSOCIATE, IS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR MODEST AMOUNTS OF FOOD AID AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ASSISTANCE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN HOME, ALTHOUGH THE DELEGATION FROM MOZAMBIQUE DEPARTED BRUSSELS WITHOUT SIGNALLING ANY INTENTION OR COMMITMENT TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON RENEWAL OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT. THIS QUESTION, COMMISSION OFFICIALS WERE TOLD, WILL HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN MAPUTO FOR A DECISION.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ACP SECRETARIAT, MISSION OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT THE ACP GROUP IN BRUSSELS BELIEVES THERE IS "A GOOD" CHANCE THAT AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN LOME CONVENTION WILL BE EXTENDED IN THE FUTURE TO INCLUDE MOZAMBIQUE AND POSSIBLY OTHER INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICAN STATES. ACP REPS REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT IF PRESIDENT MACHEL DECIDES THE GOM
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SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II THIS COULD EXERT PRESSURE ON OTHER ELIGIBLE STATES IN AFRICA TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS. IN THIS CONTEXT, AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM IS THOUGHT TO BE PIVOTAL BY BOTH EC AND ACP OBSERVERS. HINTON

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